AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace, at page 5, the paragraph starting at line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

In another embodiment, the formula is used to distribute the load among several routers or proxies. In this embodiment, each of the several routers/proxies receives the same packet, and performs the calculation according to the formula for distributing the load among the several routers/proxies. Depending on the calculation result, one of the routers/proxies is ~~indentified~~ identified as the router/proxy that is to handle the packet. Each of the remaining routers/proxies discards the received packet so that only the one identified router/proxy forwards the packet. In this way, the load among the several routers/proxies is distributed in a similar way that the load among the several ~~serverse~~ servers is distributed. This embodiment for distributing the load among several routers/proxies may be used in connection with the previously-discussed embodiments such that the load among the routers/proxies as well as the load among the several servers are distributed.

Please replace, at page 10, the paragraph starting at line 20 and bridging over to page 11 with the following amended paragraph:

The result of equation ~~1 will~~ 1 will be the same for all packets of any particular session, and therefore load balancer 22 would not need to maintain a session table, in order to determine which server 12 should continue to receive packets from an already initiated session. That is, all packets from an already initiated session would necessarily be directed to the same server because all such packets will cause the same result from equation 1. Furthermore, the vast

number of IP addresses used in network 18 will necessarily cause the results of equation 1 to

provide a statistically well balanced distribution of packets to the various servers 12. Therefore,

optionally and preferably, no other load balancing mechanism is required.